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PRESS RELEASE

Macedonian University Nominated for U.S. “ANGEL Impact Award”

South East European University (SEEU) has been nominated for the ANGEL Impact Award for its implementation of the country’s first fully integrated system of distance education using an IT solution known as the “ANGEL Course Management Platform.” The university has done an exceptional job of rolling out the state-of-the-art web-based solution, which improves communication between students and instructors, making it possible for them to share ideas and provide and receive feedback.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) provided the funding for the introduction of the system. USAID is part of the U.S. Mission to Macedonia.

“This is really remarkable,” said Patricia Rader, USAID Mission Director. “In the past this award has always gone to U.S. or Canadian universities, including Pennsylvania State University and an individual at Michigan State University, and now a Macedonian University is in the running. Whether or not SEEU wins, the nomination alone is an honor.”

ANGEL Impact Awards recognize exemplary ANGEL implementations. Currently over 71% of all full-time faculty at SEEU utilize ANGEL, and 67% of the university’s 7210 students are engaged in some form of distance education utilizing this tool. An intensive program of training for instructors and students, investment in expanding the university’s bandwidth, and a bonus scheme for instructors who used ANGEL ensured the success of the project.

SEEU’s Emilija Zlatkovska and Mentor Emini will take part in a three-day Distance Education Conference in Indiana, May 15-17 and will be on hand to accept the award if SEEU wins.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. Over 25 projects worth more than \$25 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia’s transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>

USAID’s South East European University Higher Education Linkage Program (HELP) concentrates its activities on a number of key areas which include: undergraduate programs, staff training and upgrading, improving instructors’ English language capacity, use of technology in the classroom, and developing cross-cutting programs that strengthen and reinforce individual faculty programs. SEEU has created a number of centers with the assistance of Indiana University and the HELP project to achieve the outcomes stated above. These centers include the Instructional Support Center, the Business Development Center, and the Career Services Center. Each of these centers is staffed by a full-time SEEU director who works closely with HELP project staff.